POBLACHT NA H-EIREANN

WAR NEWS NO. 64

Friday, 22nd September 1922

Seventh Year of the Republic.

Price Twopence

The Helpless Free State.

Having forcibly ejected four Irishwomen who, in a last effort to expose the torture of prisoners, interrupted the proceedings of Wednesday's Partition Parliament, the deputies passed salaries of over £,20,000 to their friends, making the rewards for treason retrospective in the case of Churchill's Ministers, Then they resumed their fatuous discussions on a Constitution which we will never permit to operate and they are powerless to enforce. Meanwhile realities reign elsewhere. We draw our readers' attention to two articles in this "Poblacht": one from the faithful "Irish Times," admitting the collapse of F.S. plans in the field and the hopeless outlook which faces their Army Command; the other giving a partial list of F.S. arms captured by the I.R.A. since the war began. Of these enormous additions to our armament we have lost a few hundred ristes but what remains to us, exclusive of our own supplies which were never greater, we can equip enough men to hold up any foreign government. We remind our readers of the F.S. assertions that less than 2,000 men carried on the war against Britain for three years beating that Empire to a Truce. Do Mulcahy and Cosgrave hope to overcome many times that number, all well armed and defending the old indestructible ideal?

Oh! those F.S. victories! Wednesday's "Independent" says that F.S. troops attacked "a large force of irregulars at Dromahair" on the 17th routing them and inflicting "severe casualties." "But" added the "Independent" in smaller print "after the troops left Dromahair the irregulars entered and derailed 2 wagons and damaged the railway."

One of the F.S. "Police" in Cork City is John McNulty, formerly of the Liverpool police and an exsoldier, who was sentenced to six months imprisonment by Cork District Court for a criminal assualt on a little girl on the Marina. His sentence is unexpired. When the F.S. troops took over the City he was released.

Freedom under the Treaty:—
At the King's Bench on Friday last:
The British Lord Chief Justice asked:
"Do you contend there is a state

of war at present?"

Mr. H. Kennedy, R.C., F.S. Legal Adviser,: "There is and once that is established then necessity is The ONLY LAW THAT JUSTIFIES THE MILITARY."

2,000 Rifles Captured By I.R.A.

WAR MATERIAL THE F.S. HAS LOST.

The F.S. Command claim the destruction of the "Bailinalee," captured from McKeon last July and reported re-captured at least five times since. Its destruction is possibly also an invention but even if true its loss is in no way vital and the war in the West, where for three months the I.R.A. have been top-dogs, will go on without cessation. But the report should remind the public that although losses in arms and material are never reported by the enemy, he has lost not one but several armoured cars and enormous quantities of rifles and other material. The following is an incomplete list of our captures since the outbreak of hostilities:

June 28th—July 6th: 3 machine guns and 91 rifles captured in Dublin fighting.

June 28th—July 13th: Fall of F.S. Southern barracks and posts. Great numbers of rifles taken at the following places: Foynes 13; Listowel, 150. an armoured car and 2 Lewis guns; Skibbereen, 49; Adare, 30; Kilmallock, 90; Caherconlish, 48; Urlingfor, 30; Rathangan, 18; Borris, 10; Ferns, 28; Enniscorthy, 28, and 1 Lewis gun; Limerick, convoy of explosives.

June 28th—July 13th: Fall of Western F.S. posts. Rifles etc. captured at: Collooney, 34; Sligo, 15 and an armoured car; Kinlough, 31; Galway, 4; Ennis, 3; Gort, 2; Riverstown, 18.

Other captures during same period: Rathmines, 12; Drogheda, 12; Inney, 2.

I.R.A. captures during F.S. advance on the South, July 14th—Aug. 9th: Bruree, 4; Ballycullane Cross, 6; Kilmallock, 18; Thomastown, 26; Kilmallock Station, 24; Limerick, 6; O'Brien's Bridge, first attack. 11, second, 27; Wexford, 3; Ballygubba Cross, Limerick, 14, and 1 Lewis gun; North of Kilmallock, 12, and 1 Lewis gun; Bruree, 25; Patrick's Well, 41; Ferrycarrig, 16 and 1 Lewis gun.

Guerilla War in West, July 15th—Aug. 9th: Markree, Sligo, 20 and 1 Lewis gun; Eyre Court, Galway, 15; Swinford, Mayo, 25.

General Guerilla War Aug. 9 to date: Amiens St., Dublin, 18; Sligo, 12; Dundalk, 400, 4 Lewis and 4 Thompson guns, 2 Lancia armoured cars, 7 tons of explosives; Collooney, Sligo, 6; Carracastle, Mayo, 25 and I Lewis gun; Feenagh, Carlow, 17; Foynes, 21; Drumsna, Leitrim, 16; Bantry, 25; Lanesboro', Roscommon, 13; Dromahair, 66 and 1 Lewis gun; Ferbane, Offaly, 1; Abbeyfeale, 25; Grange, Tipperary, 12; Athboy, Meath, 16; Kenmare, 150, 4 Lewis guns; Tarbert, 25; Ballina, 50, approx. no official report yet; Drumshambo, 25. approx.; Erris, Mayo, 17; Bushfield Tipperary, 16; Rathkeale, 25; Oldcastle, Meath, 18.

Total captures by I.R.A. (exclusive of individual captures) from June 28th to date are thus: 1,996 rifles, 21 Lewis and 4 Thompson guns, 4 armoured cars, thousands of grenades, & approximately 200,000 rounds .303.

The incorrigible F.S. Press of the 20th added still another victory to the banners of Churchill's troops who advanced with such dash on a house in Sligo that the I.R.A. fled leaving the "beds and bedding behind in their flight." Usually of course the I.R.A. go into action with their beds strapped to their backs,

F.S. COLLAPSE.

CANNOT SUCCEED WITH PRESENT

FORCES.

The first breach has been made in the paper wall of Press victories which has surrounded Churchill's troops since June 28th. The "Irish Times" has gone down in despair at the inefficiency of the 'National Army' and in dismay at the "shrewd blows" of the I.R.A. In an article in Wednesday's issue the "Irish Times" blurted out several truths:

- 1. Churchill's Army is unable to strike an effective blow at the I.R.A.
- 2. The I.R.A. has doubled its efficiency since August.
- 3. The hostility of the civil population to the Republicans has changed in many places and little information is now reaching F.S. Divisional H.Q's.
- 4. The I.R.A. is trained in guerilla war, the F.S. Army is not.
- 5. F.S. "sweeps" and "drives" have failed definitely and even minor rounding up is becoming too costly and "cannot be unduly protracted."
- 6. One chance of speedy success remains: the F.S. must have "an infinitely greater number of troops . . . better officers and unlimited transport."
- 7. Even the insufficient troops of the F.S. are neither trained nor properly led, the "Irish Times" bluntly stating that they are "woefully ill-supplied with officers of skill, training or powers of leader-ship."
- 8. The I.R.A., better led, have 'skilfully seized their chance of attack and have succeeded in putting to their credit the capture of certain garrisons."
- 9. The war will go on indefinitely unless the F.S. can recruit enormous numbers of "trained men" and "experienced (i.e. ex-British) officers."

Remember it is the most convinced F.S. journal which speaks thus. Remember too that Lloyd George and Churchill were eventually driven to accept a Truce because they found that 100,000 extra men would be necessary to defeat the I.R.A. We are hearing the first rumblings of a similar F.S. collapse. The rumblings will be more marked in a few weeks.

